

# SEE QI Newsletter 3

## Regional Consultancy Fund for Quality Infrastructure (QI) in South East Europe (SEE)

The SEE QI Fund is a demand-driven project implemented by the German national metrology institute, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB). It supports initiatives that foster the increased recognition of QI services in the Western Balkan (WB6) countries and thus facilitates their integration into the European Union (EU) common market and other markets. This newsletter provides updates on recent developments in the SEE QI Fund and the ongoing SEE QI Projects with the aim of motivating QI-stakeholders to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits of regional cooperation in this field.

### 1. INTERVIEW WITH THE PROJECT COORDINATOR OF THE SEE QI PROJECT ON MARKET SURVEILLANCE

**In October 2019 the SEE QI Project 4 started with market surveillance authorities from all WB6 countries. The project objective is to provide capacity building and to exchange knowledge on the safety requirements resulting from the newest horizontal and vertical EU legislation in the field of market surveillance. Mr Samir Bekto from the Market Surveillance Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is the person who initiated this cooperation and who was designated as project coordinator by the group.**

*Mr Bekto, what is your role as project coordinator?*

This is the first project of this type for me and the Market Surveillance Agency of BiH in which I have assumed the role of project coordinator for the WB6 countries. Preparatory activities for the project proposal started in mid-2019 and since then my main role has been coordinating activities between representatives of the WB6 countries. In addition, with excellent cooperation and assistance from PTB, I work on the preparation and organization of project tasks, preparation and distribution of documentation, summarizing results, preparation of conclusions, cooperation with other organizations such as CEFTA Secretariat, etc. Also, as a project coordinator for each activity, I present the planned activities and the



Samir Bekto. Photo: private

results achieved. For me, the most challenging role is to lead the meetings of representatives of WB6 countries involved in the project.

*What made you apply for a regional WB6 project under the SEE QI Fund?*

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the excellent cooperation between the

Metrology Institute of BiH and PTB. Therefore, we took the opportunity to analyze our needs and apply with a project proposal in the field of market surveillance. Also, the PTB project coordinator, Mr Stefan Wallerath, and the consultants, Ms Suzana Lange and Mr Johann Dietrich, facilitated the preparation of the project proposal with their proactive approach. The conclusion for me as a project coordinator and representative of the WB6 countries involved in the project is that we have chosen a good partner in the European Union.

*How would your day-to-day work benefit from the SEE QI Project?*

As stated in the project proposal, we want to acquire knowledge and good practice in order to be more familiar with the new EU legal framework in the field of market surveillance (Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, Regulation (EU) 2019/515, Regulation (EU) 2016/425 for personal protective equipment and new products in the framework of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC). The SEE QI Project will contribute to better cooperation between different market surveillance authorities in the region and can contribute to the harmonisation of the market surveillance approach. Enhancing efforts to keep non-compliant products from being placed on the WB6 markets should be achieved by strengthening market surveillance, intensifying controls and promoting closer cross-border cooperation among regional and EU market surveillance authorities, including through cooperation with customs authorities. This will ensure a uniform framework for market surveillance and increase the level of both market surveillance efficiency and confidence of consumers and other end users in products placed on the WB6 markets.

*The project only started in Autumn 2019 but can you already name any interesting experience?*

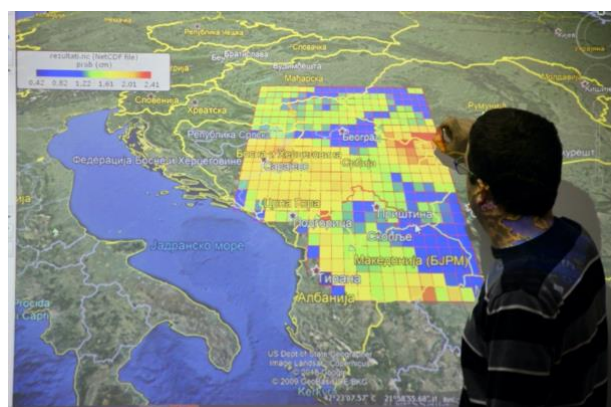
Yes, the project was approved in the Autumn 2019 but I have already gained a lot of experience. As I mentioned above, I have gained a lot of experience in coordinating, preparing and organizing project activities, preparing the necessary documentation, etc. Joint video meetings with representatives of WB6 countries are also interesting and bring a positive experience. I would also like to point out an interesting experience of holding training in Tirana during a series of strong earthquakes. Even the earthquakes did not prevent participants from learning something new in the area of market surveillance.

## 2. ICE AND WIND LOAD MATTERS FOR STANDARDISATION OF OVERHEAD LINES

**How solid must the towers for high voltage electrical overhead lines (OHL) be designed in order to withstand stress like wind, ice and wet snow in the Balkans region? How to obtain or to re-calculate the hydrometeorological data required for the development of wind- ice- and wet snow maps for the region? How does this relate to the new approach of Eurocodes for the design of buildings and other civil engineering works and construction products?**

Those are just a few examples of questions that 35 experts from the WB6 region discussed in detail in a workshop hosted by the Institute for Standardization of Serbia, ISS. The aim of the expert group is to formulate national normative aspects (NNA) related to European Standard EN 50341-1 for OHL. Technical experts from transmission system operators in Austria and Slovenia explained how the NNA development process has been designed and challenges resolved in their countries. An expert from the German Meteorological Service (DWD) discussed with peers from the region how the required hydrometeorological data can be measured, modelled or re-calculated so that necessary wind-, ice and wet snow maps are available.

The SEE QI project is expected to support the process of a regional NNA development with technical expertise and knowledge transfer until mid-2021.



Project planning workshop in Belgrade  
Photo: Suzana Lange

### 3. FLEXIBLE PTB SUPPORT FOR WB6 ALIGNMENT WITH NEW EU REGULATION ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION

The new EU Regulation 2018/848 on organic production will be in force from January 1, 2021 onwards. Compliance with the Regulation is a big challenge for small local SEE Certification bodies (CB) and can even affect their ability to stay in business.

The SEE EU Project will provide expert support through a series of webinars on the interpretation of new EU Regulation requirements, continuous backstopping for CBs and on-site workshops covering critical issues regarding the new EU approval process for CBs in third countries active in the area of organic production.

The first webinar took place on November 25, 2019 with 14 participants from five WB6 CBs. The topic was the presentation of a newly developed comparison table of the old and new EU organic regulation. Furthermore, main changes for organic plant production were discussed. As an output a modified guideline of organic production will be developed by the WB6 team.

The next webinar will take place on January 31, 2020 with the topic of new rules for organic processing.

### 4. EARTHQUAKE SHOOK A SEE QI WORKSHOP ON MACHINERY

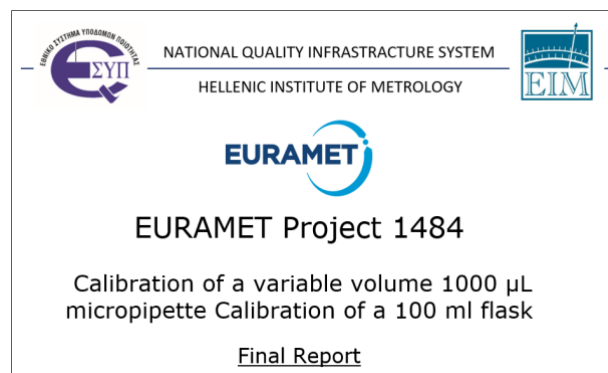
In the framework of the SEE QI project on market surveillance, the first regional training on the requirements of the EU Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC) and challenges related to new products such as e-scooters, drones or hoverboards on WB6 markets was held on November 26-27, 2019 in Tirana.

The timing of the event unfortunately coincided with a strong earthquake that hit Albania in the morning of November 26th. Despite the difficult circumstances most participants remained in Tirana until the end of the training.

We express our condolences to all victims of the earthquake.

### 5. SMALL VOLUMES CALIBRATION RESULTS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED FOR CMC CLAIM

The very first SEE QI project, a regional interlaboratory comparison (ILC) in the area of small volumes, has been accomplished successfully. The final report has been submitted by the Greek pilot laboratory EIM to the European Regional Metrology Organisation EURAMET.



Laboratories of the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Czech Republic successfully participated in the exercise, in which the calibration of a variable volume 1000 µL micropipette and a 100 ml flask were conducted and compared. The successful participation can be used for the claim of calibration and measurement capabilities (CMCs), which will finally provide the international recognition of the measurement capabilities in this field. Testing and medical laboratories will benefit from the reliability of the NMIs' measurement results.

### 6. INSPIRATION FOR A SEE QI PROJECT ON METROLOGY FOR MEDICAL DEVICES

Medical devices entering the EU market are regulated by the Medical Device Regulation (EU) 2017/745 (MDR). After entering the market certain aspects of the market surveillance (e.g. metrological checks) are regulated by very different national legislations.

Hence, some countries opt for mandatory periodical metrological checks for certain categories of medical devices, whilst others prefer to opt out, which leads to a divergent situation on the European market. The same situation applies to the WB6 countries. There

are different national approaches concerning the metrological verification as part of the market surveillance and the harmonisation of the metrological requirements for conformity assessment and market surveillance.

With this in mind, representatives from the National Metrology Institutes (NMI) of BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia attended a EURAMET conference ([www.medmet2019.ptb.de](http://www.medmet2019.ptb.de)) dealing with this topic on October 21, 2019 in Berlin. Following the conference, the WB6 NMI representatives, the SEE QI Fund Coordinator and two PTB experts continued the discussions and explored challenges and opportunities for a SEE QI project in this field. The NMI from North Macedonia is currently preparing and coordinating a respective project proposal.

## 7. REMOTE MANAGEMENT OF THE SEE QI FUND

In the past few months, the SEE QI project team has used project events in the WB6 region for donor coordination, e.g. with the CEFTA Secretariat or with an EU IPA project implemented by IBF in Montenegro.

The idea is to find synergies between the different approaches, e.g. to scale up topics of interest for all WB6 countries previously supported by the SEE QI

Fund or to deepen aspects triggered by the SEE QI Fund in a bilateral project or at the political level. In contrast to many other technical cooperation projects, PTB has a remote and rather slim mode of project management. Instead of financing an office and staff in the region, the project coordinator and support staff are based in PTB in Braunschweig, Germany.



SEE QI management team. Photo: Oliver Ditthardt

The SEE QI management team is composed of the PTB project coordinator, Stefan Wallerath, the PTB project assistant, Anne Höpfner, responsible for financial management and logistics, the student assistant, Kateryna Zakhovaieva, responsible for the SEE QI website, the external consultant, Suzana Lange, as organisational development expert and changing external consultants with a technical focus.

## Overview: Ongoing SEE QI Projects

Name	Coordinator	Timeframe	Objective
1. Interlaboratory comparison for small volumes	Ernad Borovac/ Institute of Metrology, BiH	3/2019- 12/2019	National Metrology Institutes achieve mutual and international recognition of their calibration services for small volumes.
2. Adjustment of certification programs in organic production to the modified EU legal basis 2018/848	Mersida Musabegović/ Organska Kontrola, BiH	10/2019- 09/2021	SEE certification bodies acquire competence about the new EU Regulation 2018/848 and are able to implement the changes required and know how to work with the new list of compliant CBs.
3. National normative aspects (NNA) for standardization of overhead electrical lines	Tatjana Bojanić / Institute for Standardization, Serbia	09/2019- 08/2021	Standardisation institutes and technical experts develop specifications for a regionally harmonized draft NNA document for overhead electrical lines (EN 50341-1 09/2019- 08/2021).
4. New EU legislation on market surveillance	Samir Bekto / Market Surveillance Agency, BiH	10/2019- 06/2021	Market surveillance authorities build capacity and exchange knowledge on the safety requirements resulting from newest horizontal and vertical EU legislation: Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, Regulation (EU) 2019/515, Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC.

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